

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IOWAN OF THE WEEK—CHRISTIAN
VANDEHAAR

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Iowa's Bondurant-Farrar High School's art teacher Christian Vandehaar for his hard work in his community and his continued contributions to his students' success.

Mr. Vandehaar is a true public servant. He has been teaching 9th through 12th grade art classes at Bondurant-Farrar High School for nine years. Mr. Vandehaar received his Bachelor of Fine Art degree from Iowa State University and his master's from Drake University. He decided to become an art teacher because he enjoys helping others and seeing them reach their full potential.

With help from Mr. Vandehaar's passion for the arts, Bondurant-Farrar High School has been recognized as one of Iowa's top three All-State Art Schools, with his school earning the number one overall spot in 2018. Students from Mr. Vandehaar's art classes have had success at state and national competitions, including the Congressional Art Competition. Under Mr. Vandehaar, art students from Bondurant-Farrar High School have been selected for the Congressional Art Competition for five of the past six years. 12 of his students have even earned All-State honors within the last four years. The accolades continue with three Gold and Silver medals in the National Scholastic Competition, two Grant Wood Legacy Prize Awards, and a National Scholastic American Vision Medal.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Vandehaar and his students have worked with the Bondurant Community Foundation to create a 100-foot mural along an area bike path. However, Mr. Vandehaar's proudest accomplishment is his Art Canned Food Drive, which challenges classes to donate the most canned items for their Combat Hunger week. Through his initiative, students have donated over 15,000 items in the last seven years.

It is an honor to commemorate Mr. Vandehaar's outstanding achievements in his school and his community. I have great respect and admiration for our educators and am particularly thankful for the strong foundation they are giving our kids. As the mother of two boys, I know that a quality education is crucial to success. Mr. Vandehaar is not only helping his students succeed in the arts, but teaching them actively engage with their community.

I applaud Mr. Vandehaar for his hard work and dedication, and I congratulate him and his students for their success.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH MIAMI
MAYOR PHILIP STODDARD'S TEN
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Philip Stoddard, mayor of South Miami. First elected in 2010, he has gained a reputation as one of the most environmentally conscious mayors in the United States.

Ten years ago, Mayor Stoddard implemented term limits for city officials, preventing himself from serving more than five two-year terms. Now, as he nears the end of his final term, Mayor Stoddard can look back on his time in office with pride. He fundamentally changed the standards of public policy in the city of South Miami.

A biology professor at Florida International University, Mayor Stoddard made environmental science and conservation a priority for the city. He signed laws requiring the installation of solar panels on new homes and banning pesticide spraying in the city. Last year, he led South Miami to commit to a goal of 100 percent renewable energy citywide by 2040.

Mayor Stoddard's expertise in environmental public policy extended beyond South Miami. In 2015, he helped the Obama administration develop policy to address sea level rise.

Mayor Stoddard is an inspiration for all of us who hope to help South Florida become greener and more resilient to climate change. I'm grateful for his decade of service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

APPROVING REQUEST OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR WAIVER UNDER SECTION 1703E(f) OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior Member of Congress, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 80, which requires the approval of the request of the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs for a waiver under section 1703E(f) of 38 U.S.C., which provides for the Veterans' Community Care Program.

As a strong proponent of veteran care, I support this resolution because our veterans deserve to receive the maximum quality of hospital care, medical services and extended care services.

This resolution will improve the quality of dental care granted to our veterans by allowing them a more diverse group of dental providers to choose from, at affordable rates.

There are a total of 9.1 million enrollees in the Veterans' Affairs Health Care system.

This resolution gives veterans the opportunity to use Veterans' Affairs administrative support to search for non-VA, pro bono or discounted dental services.

Over 580,000 Veterans with comprehensive dental care benefits were provided dental care in Fiscal Year 2019.

Veterans identified as Class I, those with a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition, are eligible for any dental care needed.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has created a new community care program that allows veterans more choice in health care providers.

These revolutionary modifications will extend services to over 28,000 veterans within the 18th Congressional District.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston provides a full range of health care services that include trauma recovery, mental health, and substance dependence programs to veterans.

Waiving section 1703E(f) of 38 U.S.C., United States allows the Veterans Community Care Program to keep the methods that are used for veteran medical services as up to date as possible and to ensure that veterans have access to dental care when needed.

I ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to vote in support of H.J. Res. 80.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR HOLDING SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS AND COMMENDING PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN ON HER REELECTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan for holding successful elections on January 11, 2020 and commend President Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election. Free and fair elections are a core tenet of democratic societies and it is encouraging to see the people of Taiwan continue to enthusiastically embrace their civic duty, especially in the face of significant election meddling on the part of the People's Republic of China.

The United States and Taiwan have long enjoyed a close friendship, with strong bonds forged through our economic, trade, and security ties. It is critical that the United States never loses sight of the importance Taiwan will play in our efforts to assure a prosperous and peaceful rise for all our friends and allies in the region.

Taiwan's dedication to democracy, freedom, and the rule of law make it not only a great partner for the United States, but a beacon of hope for all countries striving to protect and further democratic ideals.

Madam Speaker, I again congratulate our friends in Taiwan and President Tsai Ing-wen on this momentous occasion.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.